

Managers
recommendation letters



Apryl 27, 2023
Santa Monica, California, USA

Re: Recommendation letter for Christophe Raynaud, PhD

To whom it may concern

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am honored to provide this recommendation letter for Dr. Christophe Raynaud for any position or opportunity that he may be applying for.

Before I discuss Dr. Raynaud impressive background and scientific achievements, I would like to present my background to demonstrate that I am in a well-founded position to speak on such matters.

I currently serve as the Executive Director of Translational Medicine, at Kite Pharma, a pharmaceutical company dedicated to the development of CAR-T cells for the treatment of cancer. I moved to Kite in April 2023 from Sidra Medicine, a renewed academic hospital in Qatar. At Sidra Medicine I was the Acting Executive Director of the Translational Medicine Department, supervising the entire Faculty of the Sidra Research Branch since 2022. I also served as the Director of the Human Immunology Division and Cancer program and Investigator (Full Level) of my own laboratory (Cancer Immunogenetics Lab), since 2014. I received my MD and PhD from the University of Genoa, Italy, where I also completed my residency in Medical Oncology in 2008. In 2014, after completing my post-doctoral research fellowship in cancer immunology at the US National Institutes of Health, I joined Sidra Medicine in 2014 to develop the first cancer immunology program in the country. In addition to this, since 2020, I serve as an Associate Professor of Internal Medicine at the Department of Internal Medicine at the University of Genoa, Italy. I am the Editor of the Cancer Microenvironment Section for the *Journal of Translational Medicine* and Member and sub-committee Chair of the Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer (SITC) Cancer Immune Responsiveness (CIR) Taskforce. I also served as Chair of the SITC Early Career Scientist Committee and as the Director of the US NIH FOCIS Center of Excellence (FCE) for the Federation of Clinical Immunology Societies (FOCIS), and as FCE Steering Committee Member for the same Society. My main research focuses on the dissection of the interactions between cancer cell and immune system by using integrative genomic approaches to implement more effective immunotherapeutic approaches. I have published more than 120 articles in the field of cancer and immunogenomics.



Dr. Raynaud joined my laboratory in 2020 as Staff Scientist (Full Level, which is the highest rank for scientists in a non-Faculty/Investigator position at Sidra Medicine). We worked together until I left Sidra Medicine on March 18th, 2023.

My laboratory was primarily focused on genomic studies at the time. However, we were in the process of shifting towards a more functional and mechanistic approach, particularly in the area of identifying potentially targetable alterations associated with cancer chemo- and immune-responsiveness. This required dedicated complex investigations with orthogonal platforms and experimental models and Dr. Raynaud was recruited for that purpose.

Among all the young scientists I have been interacting with throughout my career (from post-doctoral fellows to staff scientist, to young investigators) I certainly ranked him at the very top. As the head of Translational Medicine at Sidra Medicine, I was responsible for the assessment of almost hundred scientists in the department and I can certify that Dr. Raynaud stands out in terms of scientific productivity and performance.

As a highly accomplished scientist with extensive experience in cancer research, Dr. Raynaud possesses an exceptional level of expertise in cellular and molecular biology, cancer immunology, and a particular expertise in flow cytometry sorting and stem cells. His ability to lead and inspire a team towards impactful results is truly remarkable, and he consistently demonstrates a willingness to go above and beyond to ensure that all projects are completed to the highest possible standards.

One of Dr. Raynaud's major features is his ability to persist in front of extreme technical challenges and troubleshoot problems with meticulous attention to detail. He is a highly curious and innovative individual who also possesses incredible managerial ability and organizational skills. Working as a scientist in Qatar is not an easy task as the supply of reagents is limited and the average time from ordering to receiving a reagent is 2-3 months. However, Dr. Raynaud's accurate experimental planning and forecasting have helped his team to work efficiently and make significant contributions to the field of cancer research.

As a staff scientist in my laboratory, Dr. Raynaud was tasked with developing the functional component of our research efforts, which focused on identifying potentially targetable alterations associated with cancer chemo-immune responsiveness. This implies the establishment of local capacity across different methodologies. Despite the complexity of the task at hand, Dr. Raynaud showed incredible skill and leadership, training and supervising a team of four young scientists to achieve outstanding results in a very short period of time.

Dr. Raynaud's tenacity was also evident in his investigation into SLFN11 gene, a putative, Interferon-inducible, DNA/RNA helicase that we and other proposed as a link between chemosensitivity and immune responsiveness. In record time, he developed a series of in vitro models that combined 3D culture and dedicated CRISPR-based systems for activation and



inhibition. Through his efforts, Dr. Raynaud was able to demonstrate that overexpression of SLFN11 leads to increased sensitivity to chemotherapy and PARP inhibitors, even in the absence of homologous recombination defects.

This study included multiple assays, including methylome analysis, RNA-seq, immune stimulation, and chemosensitivity tests, among others. I consider this observation a major contribution in the field of cancer research. This study, of which Dr. Raynaud is the first author, is currently in the final stages of revision by co-authors, and we plan to submit it for publication in the coming weeks.

He played a critical role in the identification of *Ruminococcus Bromii* as a key mediator of cancer immune responsiveness, and his validation of observations extracted from WGS and 16S RNA gene sequencing in a large cohort of colon cancer patients enabled us to publish our findings in *Nature Medicine* with Dr. Raynaud as one of the key co-authors.

Furthermore, Dr. Raynaud was the scientific coordinator of our pediatric cancer biobank, where he optimized standardized methods for sample archival and processing. He conducted a large study investigating the performance of all available kits for RNA extraction from FFPE, which identified the best methodology and was included as a routine method by the clinical pathology department (Raynaud et al., submitted).

Dr. Raynaud quickly acted upon a significant finding from a comprehensive genomic data screening conducted at Sidra Medicine, which revealed a correlation between MUC2 and the lack of immune infiltration in colon cancer samples. In an impressive display of efficiency, he established an immune-cancer 3D model to investigate this association and provide valuable insights. This ongoing project is expected to be completed within the next 3-4 months and preliminary results were presented at the Sidra Medicine Precision Medicine Functional Genomics Symposium, and is expected to result in a high-impact article having Dr. Raynaud as first author.

Dr. Raynaud is also a valuable member of the scientific community and serve as an Associate Editor for the *Journal of Translational Medicine*. He always meets stringent deadlines and is well known for his accuracy and fairness in his editorial role, being able to handle a great quantity of manuscript in parallel.

In conclusion, I wholeheartedly recommend without reservation Dr. Christophe Raynaud for any position or opportunity that he may be applying for. His passion for science, his depth of knowledge, and his ability to lead and inspire a team are truly extraordinary.

Dr. Raynaud's tenacity and organizational skills, coupled with his scientific expertise, make him an invaluable asset to any organization, and I am confident that he will continue to make significant contributions to the field of cancer research.



He is a delightful human being, an honest and integer scientist, and a wonderful colleague to work with. A true team player with pronounced leadership skills.

Dr. Raynaud's tenacity and organizational skills, coupled with his scientific expertise, make him an invaluable asset to any organization, and I am confident that he will continue to make significant contributions to the field of cancer research.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D. Bedognetti".



Davide Bedognetti, MD, PhD

Executive Director, Translational Medicine

Kite Pharma | 1800 Stewart Street | Santa Monica, CA, 90404

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davidebedognetti@gmail.com

To Whom It May Concern,

I am honored to recommend Christophe Raynaud for any position or opportunity he may be seeking. As a Senior Staff Scientist in my laboratory, Christophe has consistently displayed exceptional ingenuity, perseverance, and problem-solving skills, making him an indispensable wet-lab lead in our research team.

Christophe's primary responsibility was to validate candidate genes for cancer immunomodulation discovered in silico, using in vitro methods and to work on genomic modification of CAR-T cells. His proficiency in employing various CRISPR approaches such as knock OUT, large genomic knock OUT, knock IN, and CRISPR activation or inhibition was a remarkable asset to my research program. He accomplished these tasks quickly and effectively, demonstrating his technical expertise and ability to apply innovative solutions to complex challenges.

In addition to his exceptional technical skills, Christophe has actively participated in our biobanking program, improving our molecular extraction methods on fresh frozen and FFPE samples, developing related SOPs for the laboratories, and successfully implementing a series of molecular analysis techniques such as dedicated PCR for the analysis of fusion genes, methylation analysis, or sanger sequencing. He has also implemented the use of various technologies such as multiparameter flow cytometry and microscopy in this context.

Christophe is a scientist with great scientific integrity, who thinks critically and creatively to solve problems and develop new experimental approaches. He takes pride in ensuring that his work is of the highest quality, pays meticulous attention to details and makes sure it gets recorded accordingly. Moreover, Christophe's leadership and mentoring skills are impressive. He has mentored several research specialists and students in the laboratory, providing them with valuable guidance and training that has enabled them to excel in their respective roles.

In conclusion, Christophe's expertise in molecular biology, genomics, and technology, combined with his problem-solving skills and leadership qualities, make him an outstanding candidate for any position in the field. I have no doubt that he would be a great addition to any research team, and I wholeheartedly endorse him for any opportunity that he may seek. I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

Sincerely,

Wouter



Dr. Wouter Hendrickx

Principal Investigator

Pediatric Cancer Omics Lab





Recommendation for Dr Christophe Raynaud

To whom it may concern

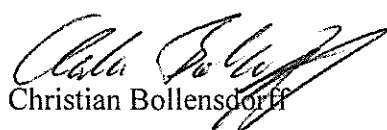
It is a great pleasure for me to give my highest recommendation for Dr. Christophe Raynaud. I know Christophe since he joined our team in January 2013. As Deputy Executive Director I was his direct line manager.

Dr Raynaud was hired to lead the our stem cell research program with the main focus on direct reprogramming of fibroblasts into induced cardiomyocytes and maturation of embryonic stem cell derived cardiomyocytes. He was responsible to develop and update a detailed research plan, including budgeting, work schedule and training program for the two research associates which directly reported to him. He was responsible for the consumable and chemical stock management, and since QCRC is a new institution he was involved in the planning, and building up of the cell culture unit at QCRC. Christophe is holder of a grant "Junior Scientists Research Experience Program" (JSREP) awarded by the Qatar National Research Foundation (QNRF). Therefore he is responsible for the timely submission of the progress reports and to keep overview of the expenditure.

I got Christophe to know as a very enthusiastic and hard working scientist. He is self-driven and has successfully defined the research program. Christophe has a strong interest also in other research areas and developed very fruitful interaction within our group and keeps good contact to other researches in Qatar and worldwide. Due to his drive and interaction especially with the tissue engineering and imaging group is very efficient and first preliminary data were already presented at an international conference. After establishing the cell culture and stem cell facilities in the shortest possible time, he rapidly established multiple cell line cultures and started immediately deriving successfully iPS lines within the laboratory. He established a flow cytometry/sorting facility in our laboratory and is training other members of staff on it and keeps it in a very good functional condition. Overall he is organizing the cell culture facility used by several team members, very reliable and professional.

Dr. Raynaud demonstrated great abilities to teach his immediate reporting research assistants but also involves other young scientist from our center and is happily conveying the knowledge he has in a very professional way and with a lot of additional effort, far above his responsibilities. Christophe showed also a steady driving force to solve problems with a high degree of creativity and background knowledge. As he is working very efficiently on his research he is also doing that for all administrative tasks.

In summary, Dr. Christophe Raynaud, is a self-driven, self-critical, efficient and knowledgeable scientist I am really enjoying working with. I therefore give my highest recommendation for him, and I am sure he will be of enormous value for any place he will work for.


Christian Bollensdorff

10/11/2015



Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar



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To Whom It May Concern:

I am pleased to recommend Dr Christophe Raynaud. I have been working with Christophe for the past 3 years. He joined the Stem cell and microenvironment laboratory in Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar in 2009. The laboratory had just opened few months before his arrival and Christophe participated actively to the set-up of our research operation.

Christophe was in charge of two different projects:

- First, he launched an ambitious study of hematopoietic stem cell amplification *in vitro* with a particular interest on the role of endothelium as a feeder. This was a challenging and work intensive project as we set up a platform to isolate HSC, MSCs and endothelium from placenta. He demonstrated the role of endothelium in sustaining HSCs expansion and used Transcriptomic approach to understand the network of cytokines responsible for such phenomenon. Christophe was able to publish a paper with the characterization of the MSCs from the placenta as well as submitted another paper to Stem cells
- In parallel, he established feeder and feeder free human embryonic stem cellst cultures inside the laboratory and worked on their differentiation ability. Christophe set up a straightforward method to differentiate and obtain a pure population of pro-cardiac mesenchymal progenitors this work is currently under review at stem cell research.

Beside his main research projects, he collaborated with various laboratory members on the study of ovarian cancer microenvironment leading him to be co-author on several publications.

Noteworthy Christophe established and managed the flow cytometry core inside WCMC-Q for nearly one year (October 2011- September 2012). Our core has a BDARIAII cell

sorter and BD FORTRESSA cell analyser. Christophe established all SOPs and reporting system for the flow core. He set up a training course for users outside of the laboratory and trained them in handling the flow cytometer and analysing related data.

Christophe is today perfectly autonomous in the area of stem cell biology, stem cell differentiation and transcriptomic approaches. He has great cell and molecular biology techniques and is completely autonomous on every project that he manages.

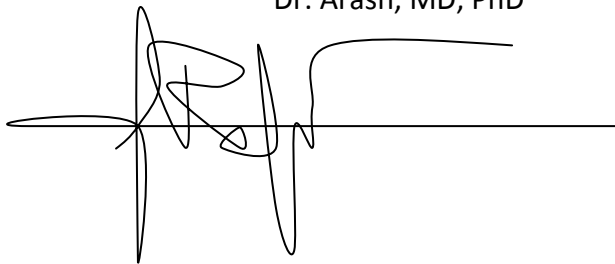
Christophe demonstrated strong capacity to conduct and orientate his research in an autonomous way. He demonstrated tremendous rigor, ingenuity, motivation, good will and problem-solving skills that were highly appreciated. He demonstrated excellent skills in reporting his results both in presentations and for publications.

On a personal level Christophe is a very kind and modest person. It is a pleasure to interact with him on a daily basis. He is always ready to help and assist others in their task. He easily shares his ideas and opinion.

I am recommending without any reservation Christophe for his application.

Regards,

Dr. Arash, MD, PhD

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of stylized, overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Paris, August 29th, 2009



Dr Anne HOSMALIN

Research Director, CNRS
Head, Antigen Presentation by Dendritic Cell Group
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To Ronald G. Crystal, M.D.
Chair
Department of Genetic Medicine
Weill Cornell Medical College
1300 York Avenue, S 1000, Box 96
New York, N.Y. 10065-4805

Dr Christophe Raynaud has been my post-doc since November, 2008.

After two years in the French competitive school system of the preparatory classes, he obtained a Master, a University Diploma and became an Ingenieur at the ESIL School. He obtained his PhD in Cancerology, molecular biology and physiology on telomere and DNA repair mechanisms in carcinogenic development.

In the laboratory, he has been working on Natural Killer cells and their relationships with Dendritic Cells in human spleens, a subject done in collaboration with Eric Vivier's laboratory. He rapidly became acquainted with this difficult subject and did his own research in the literature to improve it. He has shown great skills in immunohistology. He worked mostly on frozen sections, but also brought his expertise on paraffine-embedded sections in the laboratory. He has now pretty well characterized the distribution of different NK populations in human spleen. His immunohistology results are being confronted to flow cytometric results that were obtained by another member of the laboratory, a part of the study in which he participated and learned flow cytometry with an LSR2 cytometer. These results will be certainly published with his name as an author once the study is complete.

In addition to this topic, Christophe helped in dendritic cell analysis in a cohort of HIV-infected patients, and in new plasmid constructions.

He showed great ingenuity, motivation, good will and problem-solving skills that were greatly appreciated. He presented his results in great power point presentation and word tables, he organized his protocols, antibodies and documents in a logical, ordered way so that reproducing his results and following up on his tracks should be easy.

He has just obtained a post-doctoral fellowship at Sidaction –a competitive award- on his project, from which he must now resign to leave. I would really have been glad if he stayed in the lab. I think his energy and problem-solving skills will greatly benefit to his new job. Therefore, I strongly support his future endeavors.

Villejuif, September 12th, 2009

Jean-Charles Soria, M.D., Ph.D

Full Professor

Paris University XI

Reference :

JCS/lr

Phone : 33 (0) 1.42.11.43.39

Fax : 33 (0) 1.42.11.52.17

soria@igr.fr

To whom it may concern

Re: Letter of recommendation

Promising scientist

Petitioner: Dr. Christophe Raynaud

Beneficiary: Dr. Christophe Raynaud

Dear Sir/Madam,

It is a pleasure for me to support the application of Dr Christophe Raynaud for a scientific position in Qatar.

Before commenting on Dr Raynaud, I would like to say a few words about myself and my Institution. I am a Tenure-track Full Professor in the Department of Medicine at Institut Gustave Roussy, Villejuif, France (Paris University XI). I have a dual appointment in the clinic and the laboratory and published over the last 10 years over 170 peer reviewed manuscripts including publications in the New England Journal of Medicine, Journal of the National Cancer Institute, Cancer Research and others. Institut Gustave Roussy is considered a leader in the European Union's fight against the cancer and has a global reputation for its commitment to translational medicine and highest standards of research-driven patient care, education and prevention.

I was the PhD Director of Christophe Raynaud from 2005 to 2008, in the **Laboratory of Oncology and Radiobiology (LRO)** at **CEA** (Atomic Energy Commission) in Fontenay-aux-roses, France. Dr Raynaud has demonstrated high dedication to work excessive hours to succeed in science. He has the ability to write peer review science papers. Furthermore, he has been able to develop extra-laboratory and international

collaborations, and thus I am convinced he has a real potential for being a well established scientist.

Please do not hesitate to contact me in this regard for any further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Soria', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jean-Charles SORIA, MD, Ph D

Employees
recommendation letters

To whom it may concern,

Subject: recommendation of Dr. Christophe Raynaud

It is my distinct pleasure to recommend Dr. Christophe Raynaud for his application to your esteemed institution. I have had the privilege of working under Dr. Raynaud's supervision at Sidra Medicine for six years, from January 2015 to February 2021, in both the Stem Cell Core and Cancer Research departments. Throughout this period, I have witnessed his outstanding abilities as a mentor and researcher.

Under Dr. Raynaud's tutelage, I gained exposure to a wide range of research topics, particularly those related to stem cells. He crafted a strategic plan for my professional development, which began by providing me with a solid foundation in laboratory techniques and writing skills. I also learned valuable lessons in organization, ethics, and method development, all of which have become integral to my own career growth.

Dr. Raynaud expertly mentored me on numerous projects, including the reprogramming of somatic and peripheral blood cells into induced pluripotent stem cells and genomic edition. He encouraged me to engage with relevant research literature and refine my research skills in these areas. Additionally, he trained me in various techniques such as primary somatic and pluripotent stem cell culture, genetic modifications using CRISPR-Cas9, flow cytometry analysis and cell sorting, and molecular biology techniques such as plasmid production, PCR, and RT-q-PCR.

Dr. Raynaud's guidance was instrumental in shaping my scientific career, as he provided a clear career development plan that made tackling challenging topics more manageable. His passion for research motivated me to explore new topics and improved my curiosity towards many areas in the field. More importantly, his mentorship taught me valuable problem-solving skills and the importance of researching new methods and approaches to improve my work.

As a mentor, Dr. Raynaud maintained an open-door policy that made him approachable and receptive to my ideas, no matter how challenging they were. His supportive and genuine approach in sharing his knowledge made a significant impact on my career. His trust in me played a pivotal role in my development as a researcher, and his friendly approach to communication helped me to overcome hurdles and maintain a positive attitude towards research.

Overall, Dr. Raynaud is an excellent mentor who possesses exceptional skills in organization, ethics, and research. His dedication to his work and passion for the field are an inspiration to those around him, and I am confident that he will make significant contributions to any institution fortunate enough to have him as a member.

Therefore, I wholeheartedly support Dr. Christophe Raynaud's application, and I am eager to learn about his future successes in research.

Sincerely,

Sharefa Khalifa AL-Mannai
Forensic researcher- Toxicology
@ salmannai3@moi.gov.qa
+97433037223

Monday, May 1, 2023

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this letter in support of Dr. Christophe Raynaud. I worked under Dr. Raynaud's supervision at Qatar Cardiovascular Research Center from February 2014 to February 2016. I have learned so much and enjoyed working alongside him, especially in stem cell research. His guidance and continuous support up to this day significantly impacted my professional growth and my wish to pursue a career in stem cell research.

As a line manager, Dr. Raynaud demonstrated an exciting and informative supervision style. With no prior experience with stem cell work and the little hand on experience I had with cell culture, he helped me acquire the confidence and independence I needed for my work. For that, I truly appreciate his kindness and patience.

Dr. Raynaud's hard work and dedication to science make him a valuable resource for any organization. I have been consistently impressed with his productivity and motivation. I also admire his initiative to tackle challenges and help others with their work.

I highly recommend Dr. Raynaud without reservation, and his management and leadership skills would be a great addition to your organization.

I am happy to provide additional information if needed. Please contact me at: idahmed@hbku.edu.qa

Sincerely,
Idil Ahmed



May 14, 2023

To Whom It May Concern

It truly gives me immense pleasure to write a recommendation letter for Christophe Raynaud under whose supervision I am working as a Research Specialist in Sidra. He has exceptional leadership skills and brings dedication to any team he leads.

Christophe is an inspirational team leader that works closely with his colleagues to help achieve their goals and bring recognition to his team members. He has a unique ability to balance his team's needs resulting in a high-performing team that delivers results. He is a very dedicated scientist and very welcoming to any suggestions from the team members and guides them in their work.

My work experience with him is exceptional, and very informative, as he explains the concepts in all the details and communicates very complex ideas in a simpler way. He creates a positive work environment, values team members and supports them. In addition, he also helps enhance his team's skills and knowledge by guiding them and providing information on the latest developments in their field.

Overall, it is a pleasure to work with Christophe and I highly recommend him for your organization, which will be a great asset to any team he leads. If you have questions or queries regarding Christophe Raynaud, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me.

Regards,

Ayesha Jabeen

Research Specialist-II

Pediatric Cancer Omics Lab

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